

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND



THE LARGER VIEW

APRIL
2023

Volume 16 Issue 4

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Dear All,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Hosanna!

Crucify him!

Jesus Christ is risen!

During this first week of April we will be hearing all of these shouts. We will be joining our voices in some of them. These cries of the crowds will bring our Lenten journey to a close. And what a journey it has been! We have journeyed through the dirt, through the wilderness, to the water, through the streets, and through grief. Now we will be journeying to and through Jerusalem, along the *Via Dolorosa*, to the cross, to the tomb, and to the garden. We will feel the thrill of the triumphal entry. We will feel the burden of the crosses we bear. We will feel the devastation of last words and last breaths. We will feel the glory of the Resurrection. And through it all we will journey alongside of our Lord who always journeys alongside of us!

I invite and encourage all of us to make this journey together as a community. Let us continue joining together in our studies and practices. Let us join together in our parade of palms on Palm Sunday. Let us join together in the upper room for Communion and Tenebrae on Maundy Thursday.



Session Shorts

Youth Connections

Lent 2023 Offerings

Calling All Graduates

Maundy Thursday Service

Soup Sale

Bake Sale

First Presbyterian Church
of Highland
8727 Delaware Street
Highland, IN 46322



The Mission of First Presbyterian Church of Highland
is to be
the HEART, HANDS, and FEET of Jesus Christ

Let us join together in celebrating the Resurrection and the Life. And let us join together in journeying forward in this life as the people of the Resurrection, offering the promise of new life to a world so broken by death.

As Lent comes to an end with Holy Week, it is a great practice to truly explore the brokenness and death that plague this world. We should try to understand why it is happening. We should care about what is happening. We should grieve for who is being harmed. And as the sun rises (Son Rises!) with the glorious Resurrection, we should seek solutions. We should seek the possibility of transformation. We should show the world that new life is not only possible but is already here!

My prayer is that this journey has been as meaningful for all of you as it has been for me. My prayer is that we will continue finding meaning together on this faith journey we share. After all, you are the best companions any journeyer could ask for!

He is risen indeed!

Halle Halle Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

In Christ and with Love,

Rev. Tyler





Let's continue with some important definitions as we build the foundations for our *Matthew 25* mission! Last month we learned about structural racism. This month we are learning about systemic poverty. From the PC(USA)'s website:

What is Congregational Vitality?

A community's vitality is primarily its spiritual strength and its capacity for purposeful mission. Congregational vitality is evident in a worshipping community when its structural systems, finances and discipleship practices are aligned in such a way that the community is actively engaged in the mission of God in their local community and the world, and they are powerfully focused on growing as disciples in the way of Jesus Christ. Faith comes alive when we boldly engage God's mission and share the hope we have in Christ.

We propose that there are seven marks to help you determine your current level of vitality — and then various processes for self-assessment, discernment and renewed commitment to the habits that foster an energetic engagement with the Spirit's work in the world.

Here are the 7 marks:

1. *A commitment to forming disciples over every member's lifetime.* This leads first to personal transformation, as people put on the heart of Christ, and then to social transformation, as people joyfully go forth into the community and tackle the issues facing today's culture.
2. *Embracing the call to evangelism.* We show forth the love of Christ by our actions and our lives even more than by our words. Our relationships are genuine and caring. People know we are Christians by our love.
3. *An outward focus.* Our church is not a place to escape from the world, but rather our gateway to our community where we may be the hands, feet, heart and mouth of Jesus Christ for people who are suffering or marginalized.
4. *Empowering every member to discover their individual calling and the gifts God has given them so they can go forth and serve.*
5. *Spirit-inspired worship that challenges, teaches, transforms, convicts and energizes us so when we are sent out, we have experienced the wonder of God and are changed for the better from when we arrived.*
6. *Caring relationships modeled on God's love.* We open our doors and hearts to all people, and we build relationships modeled on God's love, which leads to genuine reconciliation and peace.
7. *Congregations with healthy systems.* Our mission focuses are clear. There is fiscal responsibility and accountability. We have thoughtful decision-making structures. Our leaders and staff enjoy a sustainable balance of work/rest time.



Treasurer's Report

For the Month of
February 28, 2023

	Month of February	Monthly Budget	Year to Date
Operating Revenue	\$28,678.32	\$10,038.59	\$49,828.34
Operating Expenses	14,064.65	14,862.86	28,596.60
Excess (Deficit)	\$14,613.67		\$21,231.74



A gift was given in the month of March to the Endowment Fund:

In Memory of: Barbara Wagner

This gift was given by the following donor:

Lori Wagner



21 Apples from Max

Dr. Donald Stoltz, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Retrieved from: 30 Stories About the Touching Kindness of Strangers That'll Make You Tear Up
Reader's Digest Editors, Updated: Feb. 14, 2023.

When my grandson, Max, told his mother, Andrea, to donate any check she would give him for his 21st birthday, Andrea got an idea. She handed Max's brother Charlie a video camera. Then she took out 21 \$10 bills from the bank and bought 21 apples at the supermarket. When they spotted a homeless man, Andrea told him, "Today is my son Max's 21st birthday, and he asked me to give a gift to someone to help him celebrate." She handed the man a \$10 bill and an apple. The man smiled into the camera and announced, "Happy birthday, Max!" Soon, they passed out their booty to men and women waiting in line at a soup kitchen. In a unified chorus, they wished Max, "Happy birthday!" At a pizza parlor, Andrea left \$50 and told the owners to feed the hungry. "Happy birthday, Max!" they shouted. With one last \$10 bill and apple, they stopped at Andrea's sister's office. Unable to contain her laughter or her tears, she bellowed into the camera, "Happy birthday, Max!"

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.—Hebrews 13:16

SESSION SHORTS

- ~ Trustee President Jeffery Savage reported on the following projects:
 - They are recommending the removal of the shed as it is in disrepair and the items that are stored are rarely used.
 - The old sanctuary basement bathrooms have not been functional for several years, and there have been water leakage issues. The recommendation is to demolish those bathrooms and use this area to build shelves to store items for the Karing Kitchen. The bathroom in the upstairs old sanctuary is functional.
 - The Trustees are investigating the removal of the paper recycler in the parking lot as the town already offers recycling that residents can use.

- ~ Session members are exploring various fundraisers for this year. If you have an idea for a potential fundraiser, let someone on Session know about it.

- ~ A visioning session will take place in May with follow-up in August to discuss how to streamline our ministries and work more efficiently and effectively.

- ~ The Lenten schedule was reviewed:
 - April 2nd Palm Sunday worship
 - April 6th Maundy Thursday – 7 pm worship
 - April 9th Easter Sunday with Bake Sale after worship

- ~ The kitchen and refrigerator/freezer usage was discussed. Elder Cheryl Steen is having labels made to label, date and identify items used by ministries and individuals. There will also be a list posted on the outside of each freezer/refrigerator so that the items can be designated for specific uses: Hospitality, Shelter cooking, Deacon cooking, Sackurdays, etc.

- ~ Elder Cheryl Steen has been working with Westminster Presbyterian Church as they receive donations from various places and are willing to share, especially the meat donations which can help with our food ministries.



YOUTH CONNECTIONS

Youth Connections will meet a few times in April:

- April 2 – SUNDAY after worship; we'll eat lunch together and head to the Shrine of Christ's Passion together right away. It will probably take us a few hours at the Shrine, so we will end later than normal. If you need a ride to the Shrine from the church, or a ride home afterwards, please let Heather know.
- April 8 – SATURDAY from 1-3 pm in the church kitchen (enter at Door B); we're going to help the kitchen crew cook for the Hammond men's shelter. Bring a friend! We are also going to create some simple decorations for Easter Sunday.
- April 23 – SUNDAY after worship; lunch together, then we're going to look at Faith and Science and creation of the earth in a variety of ways. Fun games as well!

Youth Connections is open to all youth beginning in 6th grade and young adults through their mid-20s. If you would like to be involved with Youth Connections, please contact Heather Casiano or Pastor Tyler.



ADULT CONNECTIONS

- "The Bible in Today's World" class meets each Sunday morning at 9 am in the upstairs meeting room. They are working through a new study, "The Difficult Words of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to His Most Perplexing Teachings." In this six-session study, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine guides us through the most difficult teachings of Jesus - how they have been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation. Come explore and learn with us! Contact John Toren or Heather Casiano with any questions.
- BYOB (Bring Your Own Bible) will return on Wednesday, April 19, at 7-8 pm online on Zoom. Each week for 6 weeks we'll read and discuss a different Bible passage and the messages we each hear from God through it. Each week's discussion is independent of the other weeks, so join us as you are able to. If you aren't already receiving the weekly emails with the Zoom log-in information, contact the church office to be put on the email list.



LENT 2023 OFFERINGS FROM FAITH DEVELOPMENT

To support you in your reflections and journey this Lenten season, the ministry of Faith Development is offering several opportunities. You are invited to participate in all the ways that may be meaningful to you.

- **Weekly Devotional** – This year’s Lenten Devotional comes from the *Presbyterian Outlook*, entitled, “Examen: Inward Work for Outward Living.” Weekly themes include examining our fear to live with faith, our pain to live with healing, our dishonesty to live with truth, our joy to live with gratitude, our love to live with heart and our burdens to live with blessing. The devotions are sent weekly via email with the worship packet, mailed to those who receive the bulletin via US mail, and a small number of printed copies are available in the narthex for those who do not have email or access to a printer.
- **Lent Spirituality Center** –The Spirituality Center is located in the classroom across from the church office, with 7 different stations set up to guide you through prayer, meditation and reflection. Please take time on Sundays before and after worship, or weekday mornings Tuesdays through Thursdays, to stop in and enrich your spiritual journey. If you are not able to physically come to the church to participate, there is an “At Home Spirituality Center” packet for you to participate at home. Contact Heather Casiano at hcasiano@fpchighland.org or leave a message for her at the church office if you would like the packet.
- **Lenten Study and Practice** – Our last study time for this Lenten series is on April 5. Pastor Tyler is leading this annual time of discussion, reflection, and spiritual practice online on Zoom on Wednesdays from 7-8 pm (during our usual BYOB time). This year’s journey takes us through the stages of grief as we witness them being embodied by Jesus and his disciples in their anticipation of what was to come on the cross. During each session we also explore spiritual practices that will give us sustenance and strength for our journey. All are welcome to join in!



CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

The academic year for 2022-2023 is almost finished! We would like to recognize all of the graduates in our church community. If you or someone in your family is graduating from high school or any higher education this year as part of the Class of 2023, we’d like to know! Please email Heather Casiano, hcasiano@fpchighland.org, or call the church office with the graduate’s name and a brief bio that we can print in our newsletter. You can include things like the name of school they are graduating from, future plans (college, career, etc.), any special awards or recognitions, sports, community organizations or other activities they are involved with, and any other details that would help us celebrate the graduate. If you have a recent picture of the graduate that we can publish, please include that as well. These should be sent to Heather no later than April 19.

WORSHIP & MUSIC



April Liturgists:

4/2: Karen Lounsbury
4/6: Karen Lounsbury
(Maundy Thursday)
4/9: Robbie Casiano
4/16: Lois Fozkos
4/23: Gerry Veltman
4/30: Renee Williams



April LiveStreaming

4/2: Tristan Casiano
4/9: Jamie Ham
4/16: Jean Smith
4/23: Robbie Casiano
4/30: Tracy Oprea



**Palm Sunday Worship will be on
Sunday, April 2nd, at 10:30 AM**

**Maundy Thursday Service will be
Thursday, April 6th, at 7:00 PM**



**Easter Sunday Worship will be on
Sunday, April 9th, at 10:30 AM**



The April Soup Sunday will be on the third Sunday, April 16th since Easter falls on the usual second Sunday.



March Shelter Report

We had two new chefs in our kitchen for the shelter dinner in March, Ty and Olivia. Ty was the mother of Olivia who needed some service hours for a girl scout badge. We were very glad to have them join us, and hopefully they will return when they can!

We also have had the good fortune to team up with Westminster Presbyterian Church in Munster. Cheryl has met with the director of their kitchen crew, and they have been most generous with meat and vegetable items when they have an overload. We have also been able to assist Sharon LaFlech with items for Sackurday and Gladys' Table. Its a relationship that is very helpful for both our budgets, and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts.



The Ministry of Mission will be having a Bake Sale on Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023! Mission is in need of Bakers to make the Bake Sale feasible, and if you are interested in supporting Mission, please contact either Tracy Oprea or Cheryl Steen. Thank you!

News from the Pews



Please continue to place items in the Blessing Box and take items if you are a person in need! Items most commonly donated: canned goods with pull tabs, socks, toilet paper, non-perishable foods, small snacks, toiletries, baby wipes and diapers.

Please do not donate homemade or perishable items.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

5	LeaAnn Kerber
10	Andrew Bobalik
11	Jill Cooke
15	Tristan Casiano
16	Dennis O'Donnell
18	George Griner
19	Kris Scott
20	Abdul Savage
26	Holly Severson
28	Eric Parker
30	Heather Casiano



The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 1:00 PM. This month they will be meeting on April 25th.



Prayers & CONCERNS



Pray For...



Anthony
George Nelson
Brady Vanes
George Griner
Guy Hendricks
Bill and Anettia Holmes
Daniel Litwicki
David Markley
David Kingen
Carmelo
Diana and Ray Mendoza
Janet Orem
John Mullen
Jeanne Nestor
Cindy Waltz and Sister
Andrew Bobalik
Gale Snyder
Yvonne Suroviak
U. Chong
Wendy
Georgette Sknerski
Jakob Holden
Denise Matthys
Steve & Melinda
Gary Studer
Jan Oprea
Janet Vargo
Robbie
Kate Abernethy
Betty Strauser
Peter Churitch
Piper
Laura Wisner
Ric Jaeggi
Florance Cody
Josephine Kim

Laura Buono Domsic
The Windstrups
Ruth Dekker
Rick Parker
Barbara Morton
Caroline Studer
Cary and Jennifer Pearson
Carol Finley
Huilin
Holly Letnich
Lily Renfro
Marla and Jerry Renfro
Jaden Mendez
Frank Falzone
Doug and Sue Matthews
Kiki Ho
Janet Terpstra and Family
Robert Urich
Richard Simmons
Glen Nahler
Tammy
Tom
Jana Tolley
John Tolbert
Kathy Elroy
Shirley McKnight
Jay & Jean Smith
Larry & Bonnie Perryman
Virginia Marshall
Jim & Sue Cheek
Delta Rose
Lena
Mark
Paulina Martinez

- We pray for victims and survivors of gun violence.
- We pray for peace and peacemakers!
- We pray for those undergoing treatment for cancer, the mentally ill and their families, those recuperating, those undergoing treatments and those waiting for transplants.
- We pray for first responders and front-line medical workers who are risking their lives for our health
- We pray for the health and safety of our service men and women as we pray for an end to the wars that put them at risk
- We pray for the unemployed, the under employed and the homeless.
- We pray for all children in the world.
- We pray for the work of the Holy Spirit within the life of FPCH and within each of us, that we may indeed be and make disciples each new day.
- We pray for our home-bound loved ones.

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In order to keep the prayer list current, we need your input. If there are people you would like to have added or if there is someone who can be taken off the list, please call the Church Office (219-838-6850).